

Clyde Elementary School News

Fall 2011 Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 1

Pamela Justice, Principal



Principal's News

North Carolina Honor School of Excellence 2010-2011

Clyde Elementary School along with two other elementary schools in the county were recognized as Honor Schools of Excellence with high academic growth and over ninety percent (90%) of the students scoring at or above standard on mandated state tests. The percentage of Honor Schools of Excellence in the state was eight percent (8.4%).

Haywood County Schools has nine (9) elementary schools with grades Kindergarten through Fifth (K-5) grade. All of these schools are also Title I schools which means they have a significant percentage of economically disadvantaged students. For example, the average free and reduced lunch rate is over fifty percent (50%). There are 604 schools like this in North Carolina (K-5, Title I schools).

When all six hundred four (604) schools are ranked by performance composite, every Haywood County elementary school is significantly above the state average. This ranges from seven percent (7%) above the state average to forty-nine percent (49%) above the state average. (Nolte Press Release 081711)

Clyde Elementary School ranked in the top three percent (3%) of Title I schools in the state with high academic growth, Federal AYP achievement and a performance composite over ninety percent (90.3%)! Students and staff worked very hard to achieve this result!

Results for all schools, including Haywood County Schools, are posted online at www.ncpublicschools.org



A is for ATTENDANCE.

Attendance is a critical factor in any child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and in the workplace. This year, make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child's future depends on it!

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Upcoming Events

- ♦ Cookie Dough Fundraiser
August 26-September 13
- ♦ 4th Grade to County Fair
August 26
- ♦ Volunteer Orientation
August 26
- ♦ Hearing Screening
August 31
- ♦ Book Fair
September 2-9
- ♦ Labor Day Holiday
September 5
- ♦ Curriculum Night
EC, 1st, 2nd: Sept 6
- ♦ Curriculum Night
3rd, 4th, 5th: Sept 8
- ♦ Bike Rodeo
September 12-16
- ♦ Picture Day
September 29

Dear Parents

Welcome! We are glad to see you and are ready to begin our new school year! I know that all of you have had a great summer break and are eager to return to school. While you have been on your summer break, I have spent a lot of time looking at our school and trying to figure out how to make a really good school an even better school. After much thought, several changes have been made over the summer that will benefit each of you and will make our school an even better place to be!

A very important issue that was addressed very successfully last year was the continued safety of each student. After reviewing the plan over the summer we are confident that this plan allows us to respond rapidly to ensure student safety in case of an emergency. At the beginning of this new school year, teachers will be reminded and advised of these procedures and will follow these guidelines carefully if needed.

In order to preserve the integrity of our instructional day, several other changes have been made. Five minutes have been added to the end of our instructional day. In previous years, bus students left campus at 2:40. For the

2011-2012 school year, bus students will depart at 2:45. This appears to be a minimal change, but your children will receive 910 additional minutes (or 15.17 additional hours) of instruction for the 2011-2012 school year. Instruction will also begin promptly at the tardy bell which could potentially add up to 15 more hours of instruction. Making sure that your children are at school on time, and avoiding early checkouts will help support our efforts to provide the quality of instruction that each Clyde Elementary child deserves.

It is also essential that parents and other family members continue their support as we educate each student. I encourage you to be involved in your child's learning as this can help us all be more successful. One of the most important things you can do to help your child be successful is to read with your child every day. Also, look for ways to be involved in our school, perhaps by volunteering or becoming a member of our very active and successful PTO. Whatever ways you choose to be involved, you are certainly welcome to partner with us as we look forward to a very successful school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pamela Justice
Principal

Kindergarten News



Read with your
child each night.

Kindergarten is busy doing our home visits and getting to know our new children and their families. We want to thank our PTO for hosting a "Boo Hoo" Party on Tuesday morning, August 22. It helps make the transition to kindergarten as easy as possible on our parents and caregivers. While the parents are drying their tears, students will be in their classroom as happy and busy as little bees learning new routines and making new friends. We begin the year learning to recognize our name and our friend's names. We quickly learn to hear the sounds that letters make and begin stretching out words sound by sound.

There are several changes this year in the kindergarten team. We want to welcome **Mary Ann Cooper** to Clyde Elementary Kindergarten. Mrs. Cooper will be assisting Mrs.

Ensley. She was an assistant at Tuscola High for several years. A native of Texas, she has two grown daughters who attended Clyde Elementary. **Stacy Frazier** has moved from 2nd grade to teach Kindergarten. Her assistant is **Pam Kervin**. Mrs. Kervin was a 1st grade assistant last year. **Linda Towe** will assist in Ms. West's class. She has worked in Clyde Elementary's computer lab for many years and will be able to bring a great knowledge of technology to the kindergarten classroom.

Another new face to kindergarten is **Lauren King**. She will be doing an internship in Ms. West and Mrs. Towe's classroom. We are so happy to have each new face and the special gifts that they bring to our Kindergarten program here at Clyde Elementary.

First Grade News

First grade teachers are excited about our new students for 2011-2012. We are happy to welcome **Sandy Suarez** and **Sherri Greene** to our first grade team. These two teachers combined bring over 33 years of teaching experience to us. We are also pleased that **Martha Blaylock** will be assisting Mrs. Greene. We are so excited to have them join us as we plan to make this an enjoyable year of learning for each student.

We will begin the year with lots of review of kindergarten learning. Our first theme for the month of August is "Friendship". This is a great way to begin the year as we

discuss, review, and remind students what it means to be a friend. This theme sets the classroom learning environment for the rest of the year. We will focus on citizenship, integrate respect, and include school and classroom safety. These are all part of our first grade Social Studies curriculum. We will also begin practicing handwriting using lower and uppercase letters. We will continue working with students on phonemic awareness skills, alphabetic principles, and independent reading strategies. Also, students will practice looking for patterns and recognizing parts to whole. We look forward to meeting you and your families as we all team together to teach our children.

Second Grade News

Welcome to Second Grade! The beginning of school is always exciting, and this year is no exception. This year we will have four 2nd grade classes!

Ms. Hodges, **Ms. Hopkins**, **Mrs. Justice**, and **Mrs. Ray** are looking forward to getting to know your child. Mrs. Justice has been teaching 11 years. She is married to Bobby and they have a daughter Rachel who is a sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill. A native of Buncombe county, this is Mrs. Ray's fifth year teaching second grade, prior to teaching second grade she taught fifth grade for five years. She is married to Scott and they have two beautiful children Parker and Georgia Grace. Mrs. Ray and her family enjoy football and are huge Atlanta Falcons fans! Ms. Hodges is a 2004 Magna Cum Laude graduate from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. This will be her 7th year teaching and her 3rd year at Clyde Elementary School. She currently resides in Asheville with her beautiful 3 year old daughter, Gabby. Ms. Hopkins has taught first grade at

Clyde for 8 years and she looks forward to looping with her class to second grade. She has lived in North Carolina for 19 years and she has one daughter Mary Walker Hopkins.

Second grade is an exciting year for reading growth! We transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Second graders need to write on a daily basis at school and at home. In math we will be studying place value, multi-step word problems, regrouping, patterns, and fractions. Work habits in second grade are much more complex as we begin to transition from primary to upper elementary.

Second graders are expected to be able to focus on a given task for a reasonable amount of time. They are also expected to listen to and follow directions the first time. These two essential work habits are crucial for promoting a classroom atmosphere that is conducive for learning. We will work hard on mastering second grade standards, but we still try to have fun while we are doing so.

Clyde Elementary School
4182 Old Clyde Road
Clyde, NC 28721

Phone:
(828) 627-2206

Fax:
(828) 627-1471

*"Remember to
talk to your child
about the books
he/she is reading
to ensure
comprehension."*

Third Grade News

Welcome to third grade! We are looking forward to an exciting school year. Our third grade team consists of **Paige Bridges, Holly Holcombe, Eugenia Palmer, and Karin Waldrop**. This is Mrs. Bridges first year at Clyde Elementary. She is returning home to Haywood County after teaching two years in Henderson County. She enjoys all outdoor activities with her friends and family. She is ecstatic about being here and is looking forward to teaching at Clyde Elementary. This will be Ms. Holcombe's fourth year teaching at Clyde Elementary. She is a native of Haywood County. Ms. Holcombe has enjoyed backpacking and white water

Fourth Grade News

Welcome back to school! We have many exciting activities planned for the 2011-2012 school year. First we would like to introduce our new team member, **Danielle Best**. Mrs. Best lives in Haywood County with her husband of 5 years, Josh, and 1-year old daughter, Gracie. She comes from Hayesville, NC on Lake Chutuge where she attended Hayesville High School and graduated in 2002. In 2006 Mrs. Best graduated from Western Carolina University with a degree in Hospitality and Tourism, and then decided to pursue a degree in Elementary Education from Western Governors University. She completed her course of study in April 2011. She enjoys spending time with her family as well as being outdoors and any kind of sports. Mrs. Best is "looking forward to this school year and all of the excitement that I believe that it will bring. I cannot wait to meet all of the students here at Clyde Elementary School."

Fourth grade is a year of highly visible progress in all academic areas. Below provides a summary of the key fourth grade learning objectives for reading/language arts, social studies, science, and math for the first 9-week grading period. The fourth grade curriculum correlates to state standards.

Fifth Grade News

Being a 5th grader is very exciting. You are the "seniors" for Clyde Elementary School and therefore, school role models. It is your time to shine! There are many activities 5th graders can get involved with such as leading the pledge, recycling, and raising and lowering our flag. You may also be a P.E. assistant or a media assistant.

Our focus for the first nine weeks will be selecting the "just right" book in **reading**. In **math**, it is essential you know your multiplication facts and understand long division. We will concentrate on place value as well as other concepts. In **science**, we will start off studying ecosystems and move into landforms. Lots to learn so come prepared and eager to get started each day!

We celebrate good work habits and great

rafting this summer. Mrs. Palmer is starting her twenty-eighth year of teaching. She is also a native of Haywood County and enjoys camping with her husband Nolan, and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Karin Waldrop is starting her twenty-fifth year of teaching. Mrs. Waldrop is new to our third grade team. She has been at Clyde, teaching first grade for eight years. Mrs. Waldrop enjoys hiking and spending time with her family.

Third grade students will be busy learning about multiplication, reading comprehension strategies, the skeleton system, biographies, and communities around the world. We look forward to working with you and your child to have a successful and productive year.

Reading/Language Arts:

- Setting up Reader's Workshop
- Independently working at Literacy Stations
- Asking Questions to build reading comprehension
- Writing a Personal Narrative

Social Studies

- Coastal Plains/Outer Banks of North Carolina
- Lighthouses
- Pirates

Science

- Animal Behaviors and Adaptations

Math

- Place Value
- Graphing
- Adding and Subtracting Greater Numbers with regrouping
- Basic and Division Facts

As we begin our year please make it a habit to check and sign your child's agenda each night. The agenda book provides a fantastic avenue for communication between teacher and parent. Also encourage your child to read, read, and read. Ask your child questions about his or her reading to ensure understanding of the text. Fourth graders are required to read at least 20 minutes each night. The fourth grade team looks forward to a fun-filled year of learning!

behavior with Fun Friday! Please keep all your letters of the word PLAY in your agenda book, turn in all homework assignments, and demonstrate great behavior so you will be able to enjoy free seating at lunch as well as extra outside time on Fridays. Not only do we concentrate on academics but we also encourage social skills and being respectful to others.

One of the most exciting events happening at Clyde Elementary this year is a possible field trip to Washington DC for our 5th graders. This is something new at Clyde and something we are very excited to work towards. More information will be coming soon in regards to this wonderful and memorable event.

Great things are always happening in the 5th grade at Clyde Elementary. We look forward to celebrating this exciting time with you and your family!

Exceptional Children News

Mrs. Perry's, Mrs. Branson's, Mrs. Turner's, Mrs. Cook's, Mrs. Wilson's, and Mrs. McDonald's classes in the Exceptional Children's Program are ready to start the new year! All of these teachers and their students will be working on getting back into the school routine and becoming reacquainted with old faces as well as meeting lots of new people. There are two new teacher assistants working with Mrs. Perry's and Mrs. Turner's classes.

Kitty Sanderson will be working with Mrs. Perry's class this year. She is a registered nurse and will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to Clyde Elementary. She comes to us from Tuscola High School.

Mrs. Sanderson is very happy to be here and we are definitely elated to have her on our team!

Kathryn Medford will be working with Mrs. Turner's class. She is also highly qualified and has worked in many schools in Haywood County for a number of years. She also comes to us this year from Tuscola High School. Many of your children may know her and, if not, they will surely come to love her!

Also, Mrs. Perry will have an Intern, **Courtney Phillips**, working with her this semester. Courtney is a senior at Western Carolina University in the Special Education Program. She is looking forward to not only teaching your children, but to learning from them as well!

A Note from Mr. Stiles...

I am so very excited about our new musical year at Clyde School. For all you 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, this will be the THIRD year of the Clyde Cardinal Chorus. By the end of each school year, every grade level will have had a chance to perform on stage. Last year we covered the Christmas Holidays with the Chorus; A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. with the 2nd/3rd grade; a musical tour of North Carolina with the 4th Grade; Our First Year At School with the Kindergarten; The Three Piggy Opera with the 1st grade and finally a showcase of American Songs with the 5th grade. So there is no telling what we will do this year! LOL! The only way to find out is to come to music ready to SING and PLAY and LEARN! Musically Yours! Mr. Stiles

From the School Improvement Team

At the end of last school year, our **School Improvement Team** along with input from parents, revised Clyde School's General Information Handbook. The Handbook is located in the front of the student agenda book. The Team added policies on field trips and lice and revised the policies on school dress and arrival. Please familiarize yourself with them so that you will know exactly how Clyde School's faculty and staff handle these areas.

Field Trips: Field trips extend learning and provide meaningful experiences for students. Some field trips will require parents to serve as chaperones. Each grade level will contact parents when it is time to plan such a field trip. Chaperones are to drive their own vehicles and follow the activity bus. Transportation on an activity bus is provided only for the students and parents of students who have severe medical conditions such as, seizures and diabetes. In order for chaperones to provide the best care of students, younger siblings are not invited on field trips.

Lice: A student who is infested with lice will be sent home for treatment. Students in close proximity with the infested student will be screened. The parent/guardian will be informed that treatments are available through physicians, the Public Health Department, or drug stores. A student may return to school when 1) he/she has been treated with a lice

shampoo; 2) all nits are removed from his/her hair; and 3) he/she has been given clearance by a physician, the Public Health Department, the school nurse or designated person at the school. The maximum number of excused days will be two full school days. Absences after that will be unexcused.

School Dress: Students are encouraged to dress comfortably and neatly at all times. Their clothes should fit them properly; the midriff should always be covered; a jacket or sweater should be worn over spaghetti straps; shorts or biker shorts should be worn under skirts and dresses; and underwear should be covered. Many times the way a person dresses reflects the way he/she behaves. For health and safety reasons, students must wear shoes at all times. Hats may be worn to and from school but not inside the building.

Arrival: Parents are welcome to walk their children to class the first two weeks of school. Beginning the third week and to promote independence, students are expected to walk to their class on their own. If a conference is necessary, please contact your child's teacher for an appointment after school. All visitors are to sign out in the office by 8:10 a.m. Teachers begin their instruction promptly at 8:10 a.m.

What is Title I?

The Federal Government provides funding to states each year for Title I programs. To receive funding a local school district must submit a plan to the state that describes how the district will address the 10 components of the NCLB Law. Each eligible school submits a plan to the district that outlines instructional priorities, and how those priorities will be aligned with the components of the law.

Title I Serves Our Students

Clyde Elementary School has a fully funded Title I program which means that funds can be used to benefit the **entire** school population. The Title I program provides staff as well as supplies, materials, parental involvement activities, and staff development for teachers and assistants.

The School Plan is designed each year with input from all Stakeholders: administrators, teachers and parents. Input is received through various ways including surveys, School Advisory and/or PTA/PTO boards, School Improvement Teams, and focus groups.

Last school year Title I, guided by Penny Caldwell, Reading Specialist and her part-time staff, assisted each teacher and each child in our school. She and her staff, along with our teacher assistants, have met in every classroom each day to conduct Guided Reading Groups. We feel that this has been very successful. At the end of our last school year, we assessed our progress, and data analysis showed that an area of focus for this new year should be in math.

This year, as a result of our data analysis, we have added a new component to our Title I service. Sherry Raulerson, who many of you know as one of our excellent 4th grade teachers, was selected to become our Title I Math Specialist. She and her team will work with each teacher and each student in an effort to improve our mathematical skills.

Hearing Screening

Haywood County Schools routinely provides hearing screenings to students and such screenings are usually conducted within the first few months of school. These screenings are provided free of charge and as a service to your child. Our screening is scheduled for Wednesday August 31. You will be notified of results **ONLY** if the screening results suggest that your child may need a more in-depth hearing examination. If you have questions, please contact Diane Gayer, Speech-Language Pathologist at Clyde Elementary School.

Physical Education

Please welcome our new Physical Education teacher, **Mr. Stephen Sharpe**. Mr. Sharpe is a graduate of Pisgah High School and Western Carolina University. He and his wife, Emily, have an infant daughter, Marley. Mr. Sharpe comes to us with 4 years of teaching experience and loves being at Clyde Elementary! He is excited about 4th grade Bike Rodeo and upcoming fitness testing!

Cafeteria Notes

Clyde Cafeteria staff works hard to provide nutritious meals for your children. You are welcome to have lunch with your child's classroom at any time. Meal costs for this year are shown below:

Breakfast

K-12	\$1.00 (Breakfast is free for both free and reduced students)
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Adults \$1.75 or A la Carte

Lunch

K-5	\$2.00
6-12	\$2.25
Reduced	\$.40

Student Lunch Meal includes choice of: entrée, 2 fruit/vegetable servings, milk, and bread.

Adults \$3.50 or A la Carte

Adult meal includes entrée, 3 sides, milk or tea, and bread

Breakfast-on-the-Go

If your child arrives after 8:00am and plans to have breakfast, Haywood County Schools now provides a Breakfast-on-the-Go. Your child will be able to pick up a bag breakfast and move on the classroom. This will allow your child to be in class at the beginning of our instructional day.



Tools for Schools

The annual drive to encourage participation in **Tools for Schools** is underway. Last school year, thanks to parent and community support, we purchased 52 headphones for our 2 mobile computer labs. Please support the Tools for Education program sponsored by Ingles. Your child should have brought a pink

application form home last week. If you have additional family members who would like to participate in supporting Clyde Elementary, just turn in their Ingles card number and name. We will do the rest! The classroom with the highest participation rate will enjoy a Popsicle party in their classroom!

Character Education

We are excited to unveil a new way to introduce a daily dose of Good Character into our classrooms. Our hope is to make good character something that students think of on a daily basis and to incorporate it into their behavior. Teachers will be provided a list of daily motivation for our students to help them think about good character. There are quotes and common sayings as well as questions that make you think. I would like for students or parents to contribute ideas for the daily dose of character to be used later in the year--a favorite quote or old saying that encourages good character and making good choices.

These may be submitted to Ms. Clark-Webb. For example: *"Hard work spotlights the character of people: Some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all."* Sam Ewing (American Writer) Teachers will gear the quotes & ideas to fit the age of the child. Our hope is to make good character something that students think of on a daily basis and to incorporate it into their behavior.

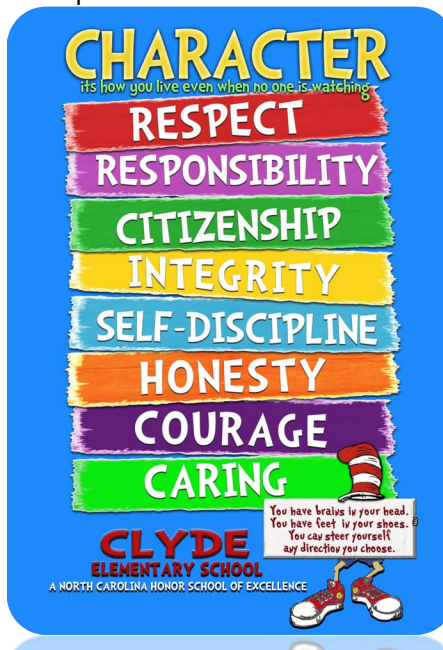
Also as a more immediate recognition of their good character, Clyde School plans to have each classroom teacher recognize a student each week that has exhibited good character. The student will be chosen on Friday and will receive recognition the following week by

wearing a lanyard indicating their Good Character. Everyone will receive an award by the end of the year.

We encourage everyone at home and school to make positive comments to let them know we are proud of them! We want them to take pride in their accomplishments and know we care!! This program will

replace our t-shirt program which has over the years become a financial difficulty to maintain. We will tweak this plan as we try it out but we count on your support and enthusiasm to make it work and to instill a sense of good character and pride in our awesome students!

--Poster designed by DeDee Haas



Together Everyone Achieves More

When we don't work together in harmony, we aren't able to accomplish as much or reach our full potential. Sometimes when one or more students choose not to get along with others it can cause difficulty in many areas, especially school! Anyone can be a bully or be a target of one. This means you can be the person who causes emotional pain or the person receiving and experiencing that pain. What is bullying? It can be a child or a group of children harassing others & it can take many forms.

-**Physical** bullying is described as hitting, pushing or taking belongings from another child.

-**Verbal** bullying is taunting and teasing & can also include name-calling, threatening or cyber-bullying via computer.

-**Psychological** bullying is when someone spreads rumors, manipulates friendships, or intimidates others.

Studies have shown that boys and girls intimidate others equally. Boys tend to bully through physical hitting or threats of physical harm while girls tend to bully others by excluding others from groups or "clubs" and by spreading gossip & rumors. Bullies seem to pick on others as a way of showing off or making themselves feel tough. Children who are the target of bullying can develop low self-esteem. Bullying behavior often creates feelings of stress and anxiety in children and affects school performance, relationships and behavior.

What can parents do? *Communicate with your child.* Help kids to know what bullying is and how to handle it by being assertive--not aggressive. Let your child know it is not their fault and not happening because of anything they did.

Make the school your ally. Share your concerns with teachers and counselors. Let teachers, counselors and school staff demonstrate that bullying is wrong and unacceptable. You should not try to handle this by yourself. With help, patience and commitment, bullying can be avoided and stopped.

A recent Clyde 4th & 5th grade survey about bullying reports that 92% of students report feeling "safe to very safe" at Clyde School. This is encouraging news here. During our guidance lessons we may not mention the word "bully" often but our topics involve treating others with respect by using self-discipline with our emotions & in interactions with others and by using conflict resolution skills. These are all concepts that we practice and model in order to create better relationships and encourage safety in a secure environment. Let's work together as a **TEAM** to learn, achieve & succeed! **Sources:** www.bullyfreeliving.org & www.preventchildabusenc.org